

15 July 1958

SUBJECT: Preparation of Gaps in Information Requirements

1. In a number of instances recently, ERA supervisors and analysts who visited Agency installations abroad have reported serious shortcomings in the system of ERA's collection requirements. Some of the principal difficulties in servicing our requirements, from the point of view of the field stations, appear to stem from the multiplicity of unrelated and uncoordinated requests for information and from the lack of any systematic organization of our priority requirements for economic information. Another difficulty seems to stem from the fact that the field collectors usually lack sufficient knowledge of the existing state of our information concerning particular industries or sectors of the various Bloc economies.

2. After a series of discussions on requirements problems, it has been decided tentatively to have all appropriate ERA branches prepare Gaps in Information Requirements, listing priority requirements in each major subject for each country within their field of responsibility. An example of such a Requirement is attached. It is proposed to establish a formal project to cover the initial preparation of these Requirements statements, with an appropriate allocation of manhours and due dates, and it is also the intent that the Requirements should be revised annually, or more often where necessary.

3. Several of these Gaps in Information Requirements have already been prepared by some ERA Branches and have been in use for about a year. They have been given wide distribution and were very well received by field collectors. Although it is recognized that the initial preparation of these Requirements will take considerable time and work, it is hoped that they will ultimately reduce the total amount of time that the Branches must spend in preparing and revising requirements. They should eliminate the need for the submission of gaps in intelligence requirements upon the completion of specific research projects. They should also reduce the number of individual requirements which a Branch will find it necessary to submit to St/I during the year, since all important gaps in information would be noted in the Branch's basic set of Gaps in Information Requirements. They should also make it easier for a Branch to prepare requirements tailored to a specific source who has become available and should facilitate the periodic up-dating of current intelligence requirements for inclusion in the OCI Periodic Requirements Lists (PRL). Finally, by providing field collectors with background information and an indication of our priority needs, the Gaps in Information Requirements should result ultimately in an improvement in the quality of economic reporting from the field.

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ALL Division and Branch Chiefs are requested to attend.

Distribution:

- 1 - ea. Addressee
- 2 - OCh/E
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## GAPS IN INFORMATION

### EAST GERMANY

#### POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

##### BACKGROUND

1. The public post and telecommunications system in East Germany, which provides postal, telephone, telegraph, radiobroadcast, wire-diffusion, and television services, is managed by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The government is the dominant user of telephone and telegraph services, in spite of the fact that certain government ministries, along with the military, operate and control functional telecommunications facilities to meet specific needs. Post and telecommunications services, both domestic and international, are available in all parts of the country. Telecommunications services are carried by integrated wireline, microwave radio relay, and point-to-point radio facilities.

2. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications employed about 130,000 persons in 1957 and received a total revenue from its operations of about 900 million Deutsch Marks, East (DMTE).

3. In spite of the application of automation techniques to the telecommunication system, substantial delays are encountered in the placement of telephone calls and in the transmission of telegrams. These delays are caused by insufficient local and interurban telephone exchange capacity, by inadequate capacity of interurban lines, and by the low technical level of personnel.

4. With regard to broadcasting, amplitude modulated (AM) radio-broadcasting service is considered adequate, but frequency modulated (FM) radiobroadcasting service is limited. Future emphasis will probably be placed on the provision of additional FM facilities. Television broadcasting is confined to nine stations. Additional stations and increases in transmitting power of existing stations, along with an expansion of network television, are means to be used in improving the effectiveness of the television service.

5. Prior to 1953, East Germany was forced to export large quantities of telecommunications apparatus to the USSR. Since then, USSR demands have lessened and East Germany has made some progress in building, rebuilding, modernizing, and expanding its telecommunications resources. Manual operation is giving way to automatic operation in the telephone and telegraph network. Line capacities are being increased by channel-multiplying apparatus and new lines of microwave radio relay facilities are being installed.

6. Future trends in this sector of the economy hinge largely on levels of investment and improvements in training. Increased labor productivity appears achievable through greater application of automation and mechanization, along with reductions in labor turnover.

7. Given these opportunities, East Germany should be able to fulfill its current plans for rounding out the resources of this sector of the economy for governmental use. Little increase in availability of service for private consumers can be expected.

8. Information available on the post and telecommunications sector of the East German economy is composed primarily of aggregate data for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The main gaps in information concern the specific details which underlie these aggregate data. For example, aggregate data are available concerning total investment for post and telecommunications. These data, however, do not include breakdowns of investment by main administrations. Such breakdowns are necessary for a complete analysis of the activities of the Ministry. The questions set forth below cover these gaps in intelligence information.

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QUESTIONS

The following questions are categorized in subject headings which are listed in descending order of priority.

A. Investment.

1. From 1956 to date, what portion of the total investment of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications was invested by the Main Administration for Post, the Main Administration for Radio and Television Technology, the Main Administration for Radio and Television Operations?
2. What percentage of annual investment, 1950 to date, was spent on new wireline construction? On new equipment? On facilities for the Groups of Soviet Forces Germany?

B. Revenue and Expenditures.

1. What is the breakdown of total revenue within main administrations? Of this total, how much was derived from postal, telephone, telegraph, and broadcasting services? What revenue is derived from various consumers?
2. What is the breakdown of total expenditures within main administrations?

C. Labor Force.

What is the total labor force of each main administration? What is the distribution of these labor forces by function? How is the total wage bill distributed within main administrations?

D. Telephone and Telegraph.

1. What is the total length of wirelines? What portion of this total is long distance line? Local line? Open wirelines? Multiconductor cable line? Coaxial cable line?
2. What portion of the wireline network has been constructed since 1953?
3. What is the total capacity in channel-kilometers of the wireline network?
4. What is the distribution of telephone and telegraph traffic volumes of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications between civil and military users?
5. How many channel-kilometers of telephone and telegraph wirelines and microwave radio relay lines are leased by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to the military?
6. From 1956 to date, what is the average waiting time encountered in placing interurban and local telephone calls?

E. Television and Radiobroadcasting.

1. What are the plans for extending the television network?
2. What are the plans for increasing the number and power of television transmitters?